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ABSTRACT

Data from the seven Hawaii community colleges were examined to determine the persistence patterns of students entering the system in Fall 1974, Fall 1975, and Fall 1976 after six semesters. Students were classified as: (1) non-persisters, i.e., those who attended one semester only; (2) moderate persisters, i.e., those who attended two or more continuous semesters (but fewer than six); (3) stop-outs, i.e., those who attended two or more non-consecutive semesters; (4) extreme persisters, i.e., those who attended six successive semesters at the campus they entered; and (5) graduates, i.e., those who earned a certificate or associate degree. In addition, data were collected and analyzed on students' sex, entry age, marital status, high school background, entry status, educational objectives, program of study during last semester in attendance, full- or part-time status, average semester hours attempted, cumulative grade point average, and cumulative credit completion ratio. Summary findings demonstrate similar patterns of persistence among the three entry groups. Moderate persisters comprised approximately 40% of each group, followed by non-persisters (25%), graduates (14%), extreme persisters (10%), and stop-outs (9%). Data tables illustrate statewide data. (JP)

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ED188716

ANALYSIS OF PERSISTENCE AFTER SIX SEMESTERS
FALL 1974, FALL 1975, FALL 1976 ENTERING STUDENTS

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OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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A. Introduction

The Student Flow Project (SFP), undertaken by the Office of the Chancellor for Community Colleges, monitored the progression of Fall 1975 entering students for six consecutive semesters. Various data on these students were gathered, analyzed and reported each semester and summarized in a final publication[1].

Although the focus of the SFP was the Fall 1975 entering students, data on the Fall 1974 group were retrieved, analyzed and reported where feasible and possible as a source of baseline data. One such report was an analysis of the Fall 1974 entering students in terms of five persistence patterns. Because of the interest expressed in this analysis and because of the usefulness of the data, a similar computer report was generated for the Fall 1976 entering students.

This report presents data on the persistence patterns of the above three groups of entering students (Fall 1974, Fall 1975 and Fall 1976) after six semesters. The persistence patterns are analyzed in terms of:

--non-persister	attended one semester only
--moderate persister	attended 2 or more continuous semesters (but fewer than 6)
--stop-out	attended two or more non-consecutive semesters (in/out)
--extreme persister	attended all six semesters at campus of entry
--graduate	earned a certificate or associate degree at or before the end of the sixth semester

Findings on the persistence patterns for the community college total are presented in terms of the following ten characteristics of students:

—sex, age, high school background, entry status—at entry

—marital status, educational objective, program—during last semester in attendance

--full- or part-time status--average semester hours attempted during semesters in attendance (if 12 or more, student is considered "full-time")

--cumulative grade point average, cumulative credit-completion ratio—at end of all semesters in attendance.

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[1] Mildred D. Kosaki, Entry and Exit, Student Progression and Persistence in Hawaii's Community Colleges, University of Hawaii, Office of the Chancellor for Community Colleges, April, 1979.

Data on the persistence patterns for individual campuses, by year of entry and by program, are presented in Appendix A.

B. Findings

The three groups of entering students showed similar persistence patterns at the end of six semesters as shown in Table 1, below. Moderate persisters comprised the largest group (four-tenths) of each entering group, followed by non-persisters (about a fourth of the entering students). Graduates comprised about a seventh of each group and extreme persisters and stop-outs, about a tenth, each.

Table 1
Persistence Patterns
Students Entering: Fall 1974, Fall 1975, Fall 1976
Community Colleges

System

Persistence Pattern	Fall 1974 Entering Students		Fall 1975 Entering Students		Fall 1976 Entering Students	
	No.	V%	No.	V%	No.	V%
Total	9,171	100%	8,979	100%	8,713	100%
Non-Persister	2,617	29%	2,195	24%	2,271	26%
Moderate Persister	3,567	39%	3,699	41%	3,562	41%
Stop-Out	824	9%	757	8%	757	9%
Extreme Persister	944	10%	982	11%	900	10%
Graduate	1,219	13%	1,346	15%	1,223	14%

Sources: Office of the Chancellor for Community Colleges, Student Flow Report 30, Analysis of Persistence After Six Semesters, Fall 1974 Entering Students, December, 1977; Student Flow Report 45, Analysis of Persistence After Six Semesters, Fall 1975 Entering Students, October, 1978; and Computer Report, Analysis of Student Flow Students, Summary by Total and Campus, July, 1979.

The data, by campus, show that the persistence patterns remained generally consistent for the three entering groups (see Appendix A). However, campuses did differ from each other in the persistence patterns as shown below:

		Range	
Non-Persisters			
Fall 1974	24%, Haw	to	33%, Hon; Maui
Fall 1975	21%, Haw; Lee	to	34%, Kauai
Fall 1976	18%, Haw	to	35%, Maui
Moderate Persisters			
Fall 1974	32%, Haw	to	45%, Win
Fall 1975	32%, Haw	to	47%, Win
Fall 1976	33%, Kauai	to	46%, Lee
Stop-Outs			
Fall 1974	8%, Haw; Hon	to	14%, Kauai
Fall 1975	7%, Haw; Hon; Kauai	to	10%, Kap
Fall 1976	7%, Hon	to	13%, Kauai
Extreme Persisters			
Fall 1974	3%, Maui	to	13%, Lee
Fall 1975	5%, Maui	to	15%, Lee
Fall 1976	6%, Kauai; Maui; Win	to	13%, Lee
Graduates			
Fall 1974	6%, Win	to	29%, Haw
Fall 1975	7%, Win	to	31%, Haw
Fall 1976	8%, Win	to	30%, Haw

For the three entering groups, Hawaii Community College had the lowest non-persister rates and the highest graduation rates while Leeward Community College had the highest extreme persister rates. Non-persister rates were rather high (about 1 out of 3) at Maui and Kauai.

1. By Characteristics

Table 2 was prepared to show differences, by characteristics. The table indicates the sub-groups that had the highest (higher) proportions in each persistence pattern. (For example, a greater proportion of females--27 to 31 percent--than males attended the community colleges for one semester only.)

The data indicate that high proportions of the following sub-groups were:

* Non-persisters: 22-24 years old at entry
  unclassified students
  cumulative GPA of below 2.0
  cumulative CCR of below .50

* Moderate Persisters: liberal arts majors
  cumulative CCR of .50-.79

* Stop-Outs: part-time students
  unclassified students
  cumulative CCR of .50-.79

- Extreme Persisters: cumulative GPA of 2.0-2.9
  cumulative CCR of .50-.79; .80-.99
  A.S. degree candidates

- Graduates: public, Neighbor Island, high school graduates
  full-time students
  certificate candidates
  health services majors
  cumulative GPA of 3.0-3.4
  cumulative CCR of .80-.99

A further analysis of Table 2 shows that:

--females tended to be either non-persisters or graduates, while males were found in higher proportions than females as moderate persisters and extreme persisters

--high proportions of the young (below 19), the single, and the graduates of Hawaii's high schools were among extreme persisters and graduates

--full-time students tended to be moderate persisters or graduates

--associate degree candidates tended to be persisters; certificate candidates to be graduates

--health services majors tended to be graduates; unclassified students, non-persisters

--students with C or better GPAs and those with above .50 CCRs tended to be moderate persisters, extreme persisters or graduates.

Also noteworthy is the fact that students differed significantly on their persistence patterns, by each of the 10 characteristics for all three entering groups.

Table 2

Highest Rates for Persistence Patterns, by Characteristics--Community Colleges

Fall 1974 Entering Students (9,171)
Fall 1975 Entering Students (8,979)
Fall 1976 Entering Students (8,713)

Characteristics	One Sem. Only		2+ Cont. Sem.		In/Out Pattern		All Six Sem.		Graduate	
Total										
Fall 1974 Ent. Students	29%	(2,617)	39%	(3,567)	9%	(824)	10%	(944)	13%	(1,219)
Fall 1975 " "	24%	(2,195)	41%	(3,699)	8%	(757)	11%	(982)	15%	(1,346)
Fall 1976 " "	26%	(2,271)	41%	(3,562)	9%	(757)	10%	(900)	14%	(1,223)
Sex										
Fall 1974 Ent. Students***	31%	Female	41%	Male	9%	Male	12%	Male	16%	Female
Fall 1975 " " ***	27%	Female	44%	Male	9%	Female	13%	Male	17%	Female
Fall 1976 " " ***	28%	Female	42%	Male	9%	Male	12%	Male	14%	Female
Entry Age										
Fall 1974 Ent. Students***	40%	22-24 yrs	42%	below 19	10%	below 19,25-29	13%	below 19	16%	below 19
Fall 1975 " " ***	38%	22-24 yrs	47%	over 29	10%	25-29 yrs	13%	below 19	19%	below 19
Fall 1976 " " ***	34%	22-24 yrs	42%	below 19	9%	below 19,25-29	14%	below 19	17%	below 19
Marital Status										
Fall 1974 Ent. Students***	55%	other	40%	single	9%	single,married	11%	single	15%	single
Fall 1975 " " ***	27%	married	79%	other	9%	single	11%	single,married	17%	single
Fall 1976 " " ***	27%	married	43%	single	9%	married	11%	married	15%	single
High School Bckgr				public		private Hawaii				
Fall 1974 Ent. Students***	38%	US Main.	41%	foreign,Oahu	10%	public Oahu	13%	public Oahu	23%	public NI
Fall 1975 " " ***	34%	US Main.	44%	other	11%	other	14%	public Oahu	28%	public NI
Fall 1976 " " ***	41%	other	47%	foreign	10%	private Hawaii	13%	public Oahu	24%	public NI
Entry Status										
Fall 1974 Ent. Students***	35%	transfer	40%	new	10%	transfer	11%	new	14%	transfer
Fall 1975 " " ***	31%	transfer	42%	new	9%	new	12%	new	15%	new,transfer
Fall 1976 " " ***	31%	transfer	42%	new	9%	new,transfer	12%	new	16%	transfer
Status										
Fall 1974 Ent. Students***	38%	part-time	43%	full-time	11%	part-time	12%	full-time	26%	full-time
Fall 1975 " " ***	34%	part-time	43%	full-time	12%	part-time	11%	full-,part-time	23%	full-time
Fall 1976 " " ***	35%	part-time	42%	full-time	13%	part-time	12%	full-time	22%	full-time
Educational Objective										
Fall 1974 Ent. Students***	68%	uncl.	49%	AA	11%	cert.	15%	AS	41%	cert.
Fall 1975 " " ***	54%	uncl.	49%	AA	11%	uncl.	14%	AS	31%	cert.
Fall 1976 " " ***	54%	uncl.	48%	AA	14%	uncl.	15%	AS	28%	cert.
Program										
Fall 1974 Ent. Students***	59%	uncl.	49%	LA	14%	public service	16%	public service	63%	health serv.
Fall 1975 " " ***	54%	uncl.	49%	LA	11%	uncl.	15%	hotel/food serv.	52%	health serv.
Fall 1976 " " ***	54%	uncl.	48%	LA	14%	uncl.	15%	public service	65%	health serv.

(cont'd)

Table 2 (cont'd)

Characteristics	One Sem. Only	2+ Cont. Sem.	In/Out Pattern	All Six Sem.	Graduate
Cumulative GPA					
Fall 1974 Ent. Students***	58% below 2.0	45% 2.0-2.9	9% all sub-groups	18% 2.0-2.9	21% 3.0-3.4
Fall 1975 " " ***	53% below 2.0	47% 2.0-2.9	9% below 2.0	18% 2.0-2.9	24% 3.0-3.4
Fall 1976 " " ***	51% below 2.0	45% 2.0-2.9	9% 2.0-2.9, below 2.0	17% 2.0-2.9	26% 3.0-3.4
Cumulative CCR		.60-.69,		.80-.89,	
Fall 1974 Ent. Students***	49% below .50	56% .50-.59	14% .50-.59	20% .70-.79	45% .90-.99
Fall 1975 " " ***	47% below .50	53% .50-.79	12% .50-.79	18% .50-.79,	34% .80-.99
Fall 1976 " " ***	50% below .50	53% .50-.79	12% .50-.79	18% .80-.99	32% .80-.99

Sources: Office of the Chancellor for Community Colleges, Student Flow Report 30, Analysis of Persistence After Six Semesters, Fall 1974 Entering Students, December, 1977; Student Flow Report 45, Analysis of Persistence After Six Semesters, Fall 1975 Entering Students, October, 1978; and Computer Report, Analysis of Student Flow Students, Summary by Total and Campus, July, 1979.

2. By Campus

Before examining data on the persistence patterns, by characteristics, for each campus, it is important to recognize that the seven community colleges differ in the characteristics of their entering groups and in their campus practices. In view of the findings that many student characteristics are significantly related to persistence, it is essential that caution be exercised in interpreting campus differences. Campus comparisons are therefore not encouraged.

Table 3 was prepared as a convenient summary of the sub-group for each characteristic that represented the majority of plurality of students at each campus.

Among the items of interest during the three year period are:

--The three groups of entering students were generally similar on most of the characteristics.

--Males were dominant at Hawaii, Honolulu and Leeward; females at Kapiolani, Kauai and Windward. Males were dominant among the entering students for the first time at Maui, in Fall 1976.

—The below-19 age group was dominant at all seven colleges for all three entering groups.

—Single students were dominant at all campuses, comprising at least 3/5 of all entering groups.

--Hawaii's public high school graduates, Oahu and Neighbor Island, made up the plurality for each campus for all entering groups.

—Full-time students were dominant at five campuses among the Fall 1975 and Fall 1976 entering groups.

—A.A. degree candidates were dominant for all entering groups at three campuses: Leeward, Maui and Windward; A.S. degree candidates at Hawaii and Honolulu. The dominant group varied for Kapiolani and Kauai.

—Liberal arts students were dominant at Leeward, Maui and Windward, for three consecutive years; technology, at Honolulu. The dominant groups of majors varied at Hawaii, Kapiolani and Kauai.

—Cumulative GPA's of students varied considerably among the campuses; no one sub-group was dominant.

—Students with cumulative CCRs of 1.00 were the dominant sub-group at Hawaii and Kauai; those with CCRs below .50 were dominant at the remaining campuses.

NOTE: Table 3 has been removed except for state totals.

Table 3

Dominant Student Characteristics, By Campus
Fall 1974, 1975, 1976 Entering Students

Note: This table indicates the sub-group representing the plurality (or majority) of students.

Characteristics	Total
Total	
Fall 1974	9171
Fall 1975	8979
Fall 1976	8713
Sex	
Fall 1974	51% male
Fall 1975	53% male
Fall 1976	50% male
Entry Age	
Fall 1974	44% below 19
Fall 1975	42% below 19
Fall 1976	43% below 19
Marital Status	
Fall 1974	71% single
Fall 1975	73% single
Fall 1976	76% single
High School Background	
Fall 1974	49% public Oahu
Fall 1975	49% public Oahu
Fall 1976	48% public Oahu
Entry Status	
Fall 1974	77% new
Fall 1975	73% new
Fall 1976	72% new
Full/Part-Time Students	
Fall 1974*	62% part-time
Fall 1975	55% full-time
Fall 1976	54% full-time
Educational Objective	
Fall 1974	45% AA
Fall 1975	46% AA
Fall 1976	45% AA
Program	
Fall 1974	44% Liberal Arts
Fall 1975	45% Liberal Arts
Fall 1976	45% Liberal Arts
Cum. GPA	
Fall 1974	33% 2.0-2.9
Fall 1975	35% 2.0-2.9
Fall 1976	36% 2.0-2.9
Cum. CCR	
Fall 1974	32% below .50
Fall 1975	31% below .50
Fall 1976	30% below .50

* Data not comparable since report was generated at the end of the semester. The figures reflect withdrawals from classes, credits not earned, etc,. which affected data.

Sources: Office of the Chancellor for Community Colleges, Student Flow Report 30, Analysis of Persistence After Six Semesters, Fall 1974 Entering Students, December, 1977; Student Flow Report 45, Analysis of Persistence After Six Semesters, Fall 1975 Entering Students, October 1978; and Computer Report, Analysis of Students Flow Students, Summary by Total and Campus, July, 1979.

It is obvious that the seven community colleges in Hawaii are different. This is partially due to policies of the University of Hawaii which provide that although each campus should offer both liberal arts and vocational education programs, "one of the strengths of the University of Hawaii Community Colleges is that they need not compete for identical programs but can emphasize particular occupational programs"[2] (underlining added). While each campus offers opportunities in the liberal arts, selected vocational education programs are being offered by only one or two campuses. For example, Kapiolani is the only community college offering programs in "legal assistant", "dental assisting".

As a means of showing the dominant sub-group, by characteristics, for each of the five persistence patterns, by campus, Tables 4.1 through 4.5 were prepared. For example, Table 4.1 shows that in Fall 1975 a higher proportion of females (23 percent) than males were non-persisters at Hawaii Community College.

Tables 4.1-4.5 show the following sub-groups with high proportions in each persistence pattern:

- Non-Persisters (Table 4.1)

  females (5-7 campuses)
  married persons (5 campuses)
  transfer students (7 campuses)
  part-time students (7 campuses)
  unclassified students (7 campuses)
  students with cumulative GPAs below 2.0 (7 campuses)
  students with cumulative CCRs below .50 (7 campuses)

- Moderate Persisters (Table 4.2)

  new students (6 campuses)
  full-time students (6 campuses)
  A.A. candidates (5-6 campuses)
  students with cumulative CCRs of .50-.79 (7 campuses)

- Stop-Outs (Table 4.3)

  males (5-6 campuses)
  married (5-6 campuses)
  part-time students (7 campuses)
  students with cumulative CCRs of .50-.79 (6 campuses)

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[2] University of Hawaii, Board of Regents, Controlled Growth for the University of Hawaii; Community Colleges (Fall 1970), p. 14.

- Extreme Persisters (Table 4.4)

  males (5-6 campuses)
  married students (4-6 campuses)
  new students (4-7 campuses)
  full-time students (4-6 campuses)
  A.S. candidates (4-6 campuses)
  students with cumulative GPAs of 2.0-2.9 (6-7 campuses)
  students with cumulative CCRs of .50-.79 (4-5 campuses)

- Graduates (Table 4.5)

  females (4 campuses)
  below 19 years at entry (3-4 campuses)
  single persons (4-6 campuses)
  transfer students (4 campuses)
  full-time students (7 campuses)
  certificate candidates (5-7 campuses)
  students with cumulative GPAs of 3.0-3.4 (2-6 campuses)
  students with cumulative CCRs of .80-.99 (6-7 campuses)

SUMMARY

Data for the three groups of entering students show more similarities than differences in terms of the characteristics of the entering students and of their persistence patterns. Further study and analysis, especially of Appendix A, by campus personnel may be helpful in overall evaluation and planning efforts.

Tables 4.1-4.5 and Appendix A (pages 10-21) were removed prior to the document's submission to the ERIC Document Reproduction Facility.

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